



# Understanding Islam



## Islam - An Abrahamic Religion

- ☾ Muslims are monotheistic.
- ☾ They believe in the Judeo-Christian God, whom they call **Allah** (Arabic word for God).
- ☾ Muslims believe that the Torah and the Bible, like the **Koran**, is the word of God.

# **Islam = submission to Allah**

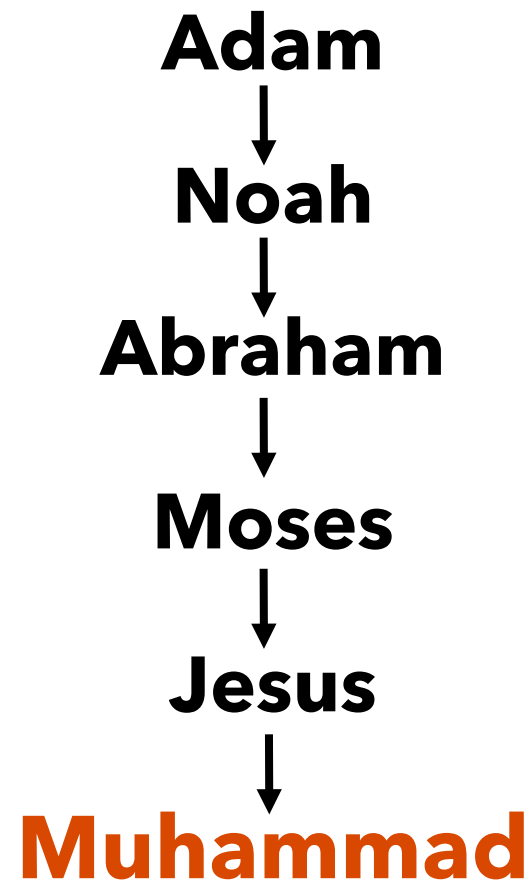
## **Muslim = someone who practices Islam**



[http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/56895000/jpg/\\_56895065\\_manpraying.jpg](http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/56895000/jpg/_56895065_manpraying.jpg)



## Believe in the earlier prophets





# The Prophet Muhammad



- ☾ **Born 570 CE in Mecca (now holiest city in Islam) - later orphaned and raised by uncle**
- ☾ **Married and became a successful merchant**
- ☾ **Revelation from God at age 40 (610 CE)**



<http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200401/images/route.to.mecca.gif>

# Revelation



<http://www.themuslimtimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Hira-e-I307040452352.jpg>

- ☾ **Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad was fasting in a cave near Mecca when the Angel Gabriel revealed God's word to him.**
- ☾ **Muslims believe their Holy Book, the Koran, is the direct word of God as recorded by the Prophet Muhammad.**



# Koran/ Qur'an

- ☪ It took a month for God's word to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.
- ☪ This is remembered and celebrated during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.
- ☪ The most authoritative version of the Koran is written in Arabic, the language in which it was recorded.

# Muhammad's Revelations Angered Rulers of Mecca

- ☾ **Mecca was a trade center**
- ☾ **Most in region were polytheistic and worshipped many idols**
- ☾ **Chased Muhammad out of Mecca (622 CE)**
- ☾ **Muhammad fled to Medina**





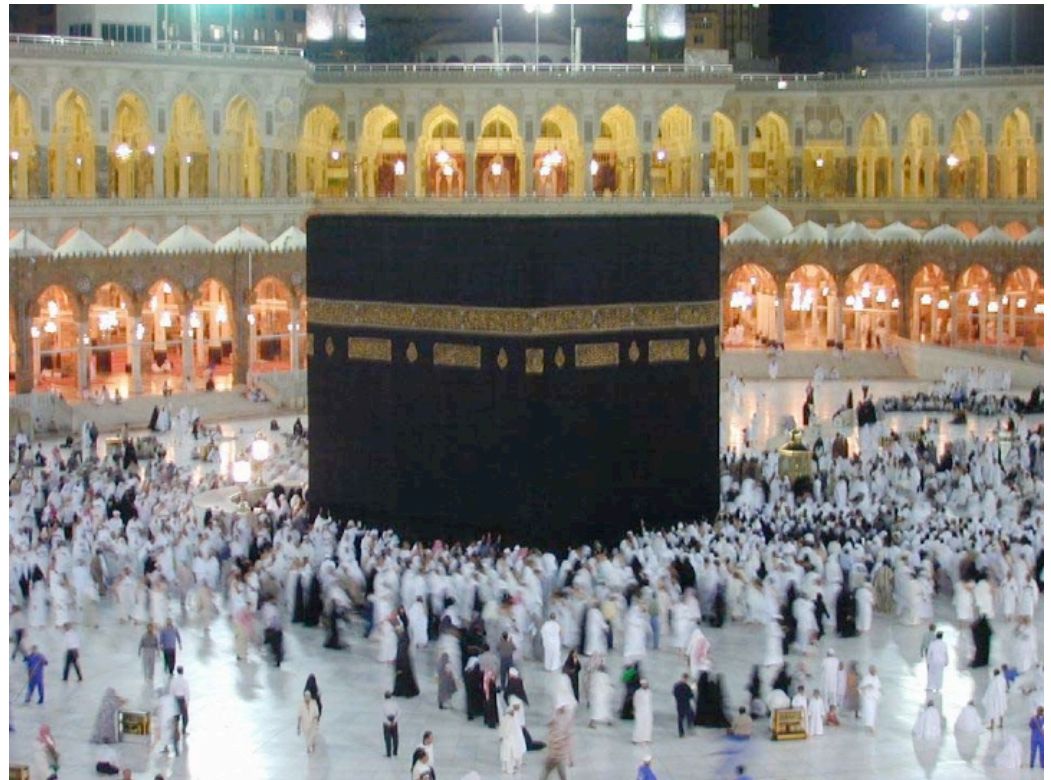
# Clash between Mecca and Medina

- ☾ **Medina welcomed Muhammad and became the first Muslim community**
- ☾ **Muhammad gained converts among tribes**
- ☾ **Frequent battles with Mecca gave him more power & prestige**



# Muhammad Returned to Mecca

- ☾★ **Returned to Mecca and smashed idols at Ka'ba (628 CE)**
- ☾★ **United tribes under one god, Allah, and one law, Shari'a**



[http://images.fanpop.com/images/image\\_uploads/Kaaba-islam-172966\\_960\\_720.jpg](http://images.fanpop.com/images/image_uploads/Kaaba-islam-172966_960_720.jpg)

# Muhammad's Night Journey

<http://www.4kingdoms.com/dome-rock-interior.jpg>



☾ **Muslims believe Muhammad was carried from Mecca to Jerusalem on a winged horse.**

☾ **Muslims believe Muhammad then ascended from a rock on a 'Night Journey' into heaven that brought the Prophet into the presence of earlier Prophets and God. For Jews, this same rock is the one on which Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac and may have once been in the center of King Solomon's Temple.**



# Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem



<http://www.4kingdoms.com/dome-wall.jpg>

- ★ Like the Ka'ba in Mecca, this shrine is built over the sacred stone. At times, this site has been a source of conflict between Jews and Muslims in Jerusalem.



# Prophet Muhammad's Tomb



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Tomb\\_of\\_Muhammad\\_Outb\\_Shah\\_in\\_Hyderabad\\_W\\_IMG\\_4636.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Tomb_of_Muhammad_Outb_Shah_in_Hyderabad_W_IMG_4636.jpg)

- ☾ **The Prophet Muhammad died in 632 CE; his tomb is in Medina and is the 2nd holiest site in Islam.**
- ☾ **The Prophet had no male heirs which affected the leadership of the faith tradition after his death.**

# Branches of Islam

- ☪ The first 4 Caliphs or “successors” were all close or related to Muhammad (ex. father-in-law or son-in-law)
- ☪ After this time, Islam split into 2 branches

## Sunni (87%)

Most qualified should be selected to lead

## Shi'a (13%)

Leadership should stay in Muhammad's family



# Countries with the Largest Muslim Population

1.	Indonesia	183,000,000	6.	Iran	62,000,000
2.	Pakistan	134,000,000	7.	Egypt	59,000,000
3.	India	121,000,000	8.	Nigeria	53,000,000
4.	Bangladesh	114,000,000	9.	Algeria	31,000,000
5.	Turkey	66,000,000	10.	Morocco	29,000,000

**\* Arabs make up only 20% of the total Muslim population of the world.**

# 5 Pillars of Islam

## Shahada “Belief”

Public  
Declaration of  
Faith

Sincerely say:  
“There is no  
god but Allah,  
and Muhammad  
is his prophet”

## Salah “Prayer”

Pray five times  
a day

Must face  
Mecca

Doesn't matter  
where you are,  
just that you  
pray

## Zakah “Charity”

All things  
come from  
Allah

Must give to  
the less  
fortunate

Give a meal or  
money to  
charity

## Siyam “Fasting”

Fast during the  
holy month of  
Ramadan

Cannot eat or  
drink during the  
day

Shows  
sacrifice

## Hajj

Make a  
pilgrimage to  
Mecca if able

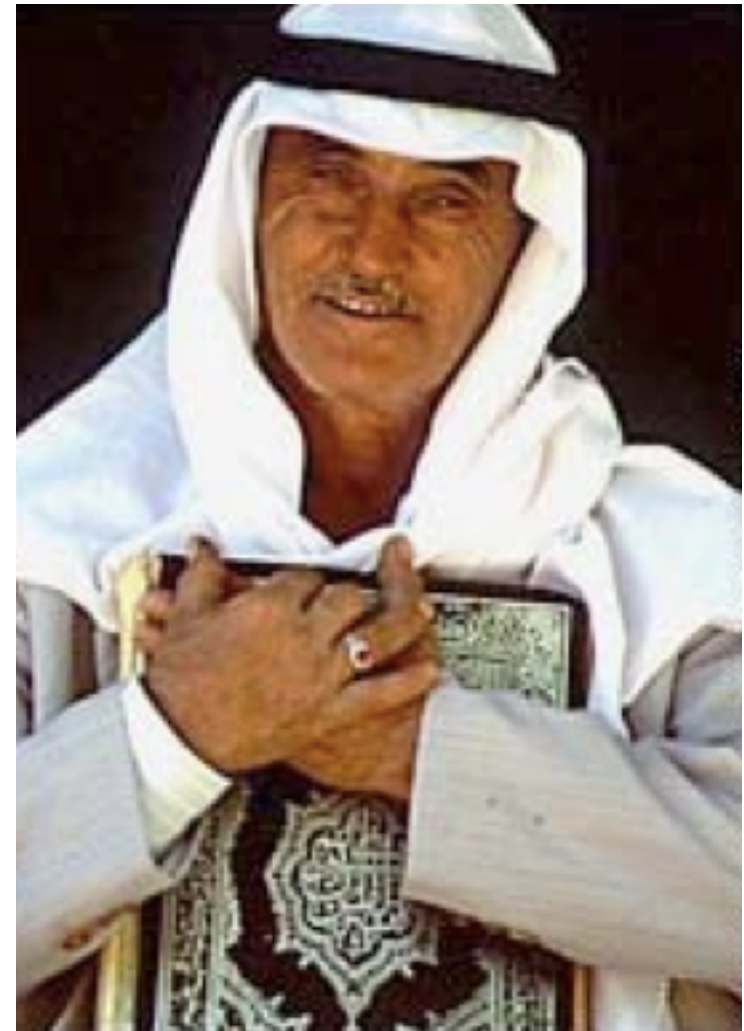
Once in a  
lifetime

Mecca is in  
Saudi Arabia





# 1st Pillar - *Shahada*



- ☾ **Public Proclamation of Faith:**  
***"There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God"***
- ☾ **Its words are chanted daily in the call to prayer (traditionally from the minaret or tower near a mosque). Pray in mosque on Friday.**

## 2nd Pillar - *Salat*

**Prayer: the set prayers Muslims perform 5 times a day while facing the Ka'ba in Mecca (Dawn, mid-day, afternoon, at sunset, and in the evening)**

- **They repeat a set ritual of bowing, kneeling, and prostrating, accompanied by calls to god and recitations of parts of the Koran.**
- **A prayer rug is used to help a Muslim perform prayers in a clean space using a prayer rug.**



## 3rd Pillar - Zakat

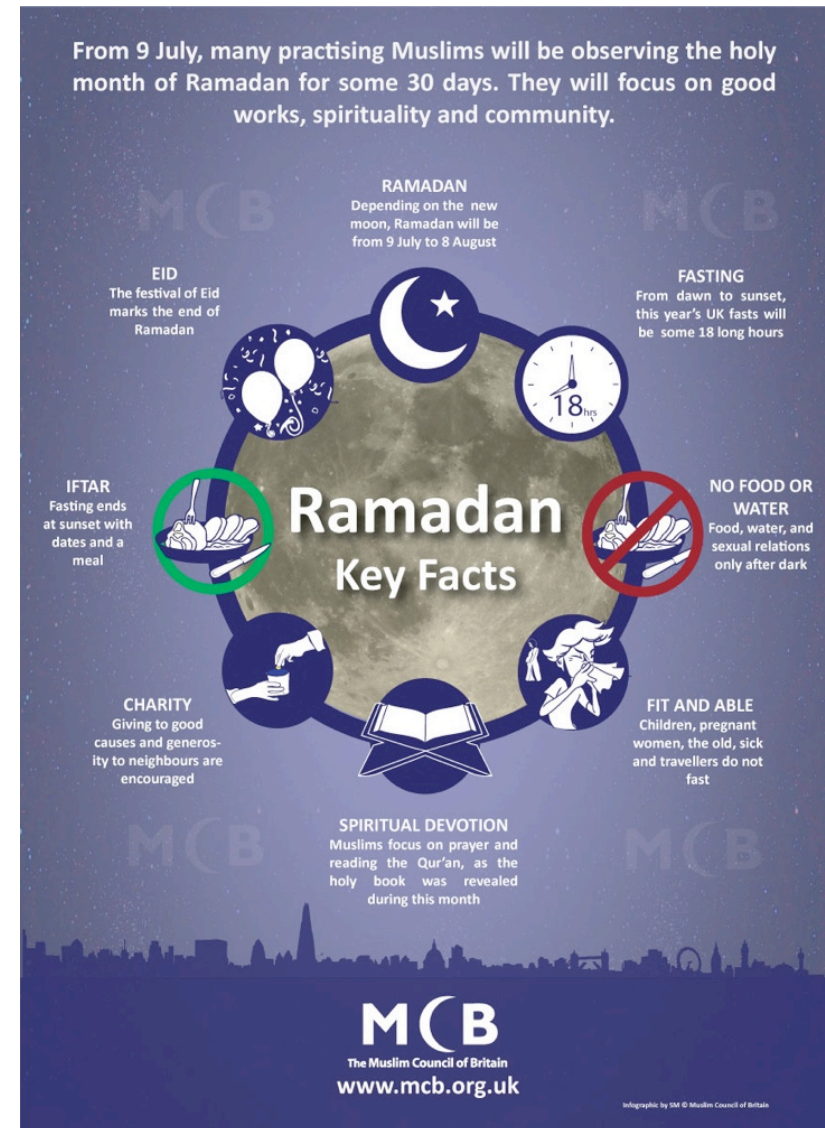
- ☾ Giving to charity: gifts to the poor or charitable causes
- ☾ Often this accounts to 1/40th of your wealth
- ☾ Often this is done during 'Id al-Fitr'





# 4th Pillar - Sawm

- ☾★ **Fasting: During the Daylight hours during the holy month of Ramadan**
- ☾★ **Experience discipline and the deprivation of the poor**
- ☾★ **Ramadan ends with *Id al-Fitr*, the festival of the breaking of the fast. A feast and festival when gifts are exchanged.**





# Eid



**End of the Ramadan holiday.**

## 5th Pillar - *Hajj*



- ☪ **Pilgrimage to Mecca once in your lifetime if you are able.**
- ☪ **Sacred stone is inside the shrine. Muslims believe a stone was given to Adam by the Angel Gabriel and then later Abraham put it into the rebuilt Ka'ba.**





## Muslim veil types

Hijab



Hijab refers to the variety of styles in which Muslim women use scarves to cover their hair, neck and sometimes shoulders. The hijab often leaves the entire face open

Burka



In the burka's most conservative form, it thoroughly covers the face and body of the person wearing it, leaving only a mesh-like screen to see through

Niqab



The niqab, shown in black, is a veil in the true sense of the word. It covers everything below the bridge of the nose and the upper cheeks, and sometimes also covers the forehead

Chador



The full-body cloak Muslim women in Iran are expected to wear outdoors. Depending on how it is designed and on how the woman holds it, the chador may or may not cover the face

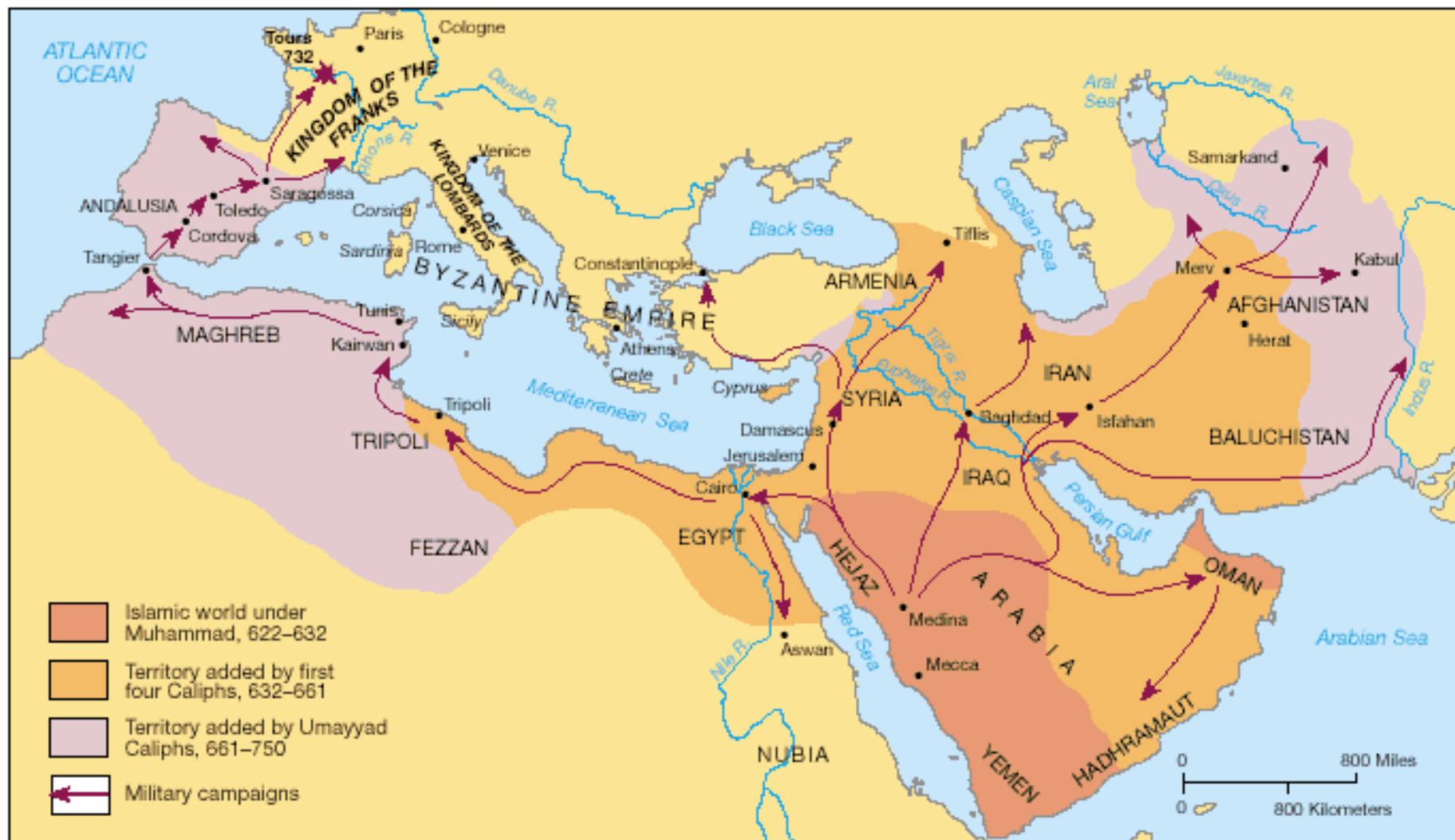
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Press Association Graphic



# The Spread of Islam

- ☾ Easy to learn and practice.
- ☾ No priesthood.
- ☾ Teaches equality.
- ☾ Non-Muslims, who were **"Peoples of the Book,"** were allowed religious freedom, but paid additional taxes.
- ☾ Easily "portable" - nomads & trade routes.



 *The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the Atlantic Ocean within.*